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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,906	04/21/2004	Joanna Hong Zhang	J6886(C)	5655
201 7590 05/18/2011 UNILEVER PATENT GROUP 800 SYLVAN AVENUE AG West S. Wing ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632-3100				
EXAMINER FISHER, ABIGAIL L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1616				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentgroupus@unilever.com

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/828,906

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Examiner

ABIGAIL FISHER

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6 and 10-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6 and 10-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt of Amendments/Remarks filed April 7 2011 is acknowledged. Claims 3 and 7-9 were/stand cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 10-13 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Applicant Claims
2. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
3. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue, and resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodrigues et al. (USPGPUB No. 20040266921, cited in the Office action mailed on 12/19/07) in view of Alaluf et al. (US Patent No. 6287553, cited in the Office action mailed on 1/13/11).

Applicant Claims

The instant application claims a composition comprising a conjugated linoleic acid and a substituted urea.

Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art (MPEP §2141.01)

Rodrigues et al. is directed to use of hydroxyalkyl urea in aqueous-based polymer compositions to maintain hydration of said composition. Preferred hydroxyalkyl urea compounds are those derived from urea and comprise only a single urea group, at least one hydroxy group, and at least two carbon atoms between the urea group and the hydroxyl group (paragraph 0016). Preferred hydroxyl urea compounds include N-2-hydroxyethyl urea (paragraph 0020, and the conditioner example). The compositions may be formulated with adjuvants. Adjuvants that are useful include lubricants, medications. These adjuvants are utilized in amount from 1 to 10,000 parts based on 100 parts of polymer (paragraph 0035). The hydroxyalkyl urea is used in 0.01 to 50 wt% based on the weight of hydroxyalkyl urea to polymer solids (paragraph 0036). Examples of the formulations include shampoo, conditioner, and shower gels. The examples include water, which is a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

**Ascertainment of the Difference Between Scope the Prior Art and the Claims
(MPEP §2141.012)**

While Rodrigues et al. teach the addition of adjuvants. Rodrigues et al. does not teach the adjuvant is a conjugated linoleic acid. However, this deficiency is cured by Alaluf et al.

Alaluf et al. is directed to skin care compositions. The compositions are topical for treating skin conditions such as wrinkling, sagging, photo damage, sensitive skin, dry skin, flaky skin, red skin, irritated skin, itchy skin and age spots comprising applying conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) in a dermatologically acceptable carrier (claims 1 and 3). The composition comprises 0.00001 to 50% by weight of the conjugated linoleic acid (claim 2). The compositions are taught as promoting smooth and supple skin with improved elasticity and reduced or delayed appearance of wrinkles and aged skin with improved skin color (column 2, lines 26-38).

***Finding of Prima Facie Obviousness Rationale and Motivation
(MPEP §2142-2143)***

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to combine the teachings of Rodrigues et al. and Alaluf et al. and utilize conjugated linoleic acids in the composition of the Rodrigues et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add conjugated linoleic acids as Rodrigues et al. teach lubricants or medicaments can be added to the composition and Alaluf et al. teaches that conjugated linoleic acid can be utilized to improve the texture, elasticity and appearance of skin. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been

motivated to add conjugated linoleic acid in the skin contacting compositions of Rodrigues et al. for the advantages taught by Alaluf et al.

Regarding claim 10 of the instant application, Alaluf et al. does not specify specific Iodine Values of the various conjugated linoleic acid compounds. However the compounds of Alaluf et al. are the same as those instantly claimed. Therefore there is a reasonable expectation that these compounds meet the required Iodine Value range as set forth in claim 10 of the instant application. It is noted that In re Best (195 USPQ 430) and In re Fitzgerald (205 USPQ 594) discuss the support of rejections wherein the prior art discloses subject matter which there is reason to believe inherently includes functions that are newly cited or is identical to a product instantly claimed. In such a situation the burden is shifted to the applicants to "prove that subject matter shown to be in the prior art does not possess characteristic relied on" (205 USPQ 594, second column, first full paragraph).

Regarding the claimed amount of urea and unsaturated material, Rodrigues et al. (urea and adjuvant) and Alaluf et al. (CLA) teach overlapping amounts. In the case where the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art" a *prima facie* case of obviousness exists. **See MPEP 2144.05 [R-5].**

Regarding the claimed ratio of urea to unsaturated material, Rodrigues et al. teach overlapping ranges of urea and adjuvant. Additionally, Alaluf et al. teach an overlapping amount of unsaturated material. "The normal desire of scientists or artisans to improve upon what is already generally known provides the motivation to determine

where in a disclosed set of percentage ranges is the optimum combination of percentages.” *In re Hoeschele*, 406 F.2d 1403, 160 USPQ 809 (CCPA 1969).

Response to Arguments

Applicants argue that (1) applicant faced a totally different problem in connection with conjugated linoleic acids. There is no indication in Rodrigues et al. that hydroxyalkyl ureas would have any influence in reducing the incidence of color bodies in susceptible conjugated olefin compound.

Applicants’ arguments filed April 7 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding Applicants’ first argument, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In the instant case, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add conjugated linoleic acids as Rodrigues et al. teach lubricants or medicaments can be added to the composition and Alaluf et al. teaches that conjugated linoleic acid can be utilized to improve the texture, elasticity and appearance of skin. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add conjugated linoleic acid in the skin contacting compositions of Rodrigues et al. for the advantages taught by Alaluf et

al. The examiner further more respectfully notes that even though Applicants have recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art, namely the stabilization of conjugated linoleic acids by the hydroxyethyl urea, this advantage cannot in and of itself be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). Furthermore, the examiner respectfully notes that *prima facie* obviousness does not require prior art references to recognize or even suggest the problem that Applicants attempted to solve. In addition, the prior art does not have to teach combining the references for the reason that Applicants combined them. *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688,692-93, 16 USPQ2d 1897, 1901 (Fed. Cir. 1990, en banc).

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perricone (US Patent No. 6296861, cited in the Office action mailed on 1/13/11) in view of Moller et al. (EP 2703185, cited on PTO Form 1449).

Applicant Claims

The instant application claims a composition comprising a conjugated linoleic acid and a substituted urea.

Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art (MPEP §2141.01)

Perricone is directed to the treatment of skin damage using conjugated linoleic acid and ascorbyl fatty acid esters. The compositions treat skin damage such as inflammation, eczema, etc. (claim 1). The conjugated linoleic acid is present in an

amount from about 1 to about 25% (claim 6). The compositions can comprise at least one other adjunct ingredient (column 5, lines 66-67).

**Ascertainment of the Difference Between Scope the Prior Art and the Claims
(MPEP §2141.012)**

While Perricone teach the addition of adjuvants, Perricone does not specify utilizing a hydroxyl urea. However, this deficiency is cured by Moller et al.

Moller et al. (utilizing the English Translation) teach cosmetic compositions with skin moisturizers. The compositions comprise hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas. A specific hydroxy urea claimed is hydroxyethyl urea (claim 4 and page 5, line 12, 22). The products advantageously suitable for retaining and/or restoring the water retention of the skin and thereby keeping the skin soft and flexible (page 4, lines 25-30). The ureas are used in an amount from 1 to 20% by weight (claim 1). The compositions additionally claim customary constituents such as fatty substances (claim 3).

***Finding of Prima Facie Obviousness Rationale and Motivation
(MPEP §2142-2143)***

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to combine the teachings of Perricone and Moller et al. and utilize hydroxyalkyl ureas in the composition of Perricone. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add a hydroxyalkyl urea as Perricone teach compositions for the treatment of skin disorders such as eczema (which is a dry skin disorder) and that adjuvants can be utilized and Moller et al. teach that the hydroxyalkyl ureas can be in compositions as skin moisturizers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize skin moisturizers in composition designed to treat dry

skin diseases such as eczema. One of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation of success as Moller et al. teach utilizing the hydroxyalkyl urea in compositions with fatty substance (CLA is a fatty substance).

Regarding claim 10 of the instant application, Perricone does not specify specific Iodine Values of the various conjugated linoleic acid compounds. However the compounds of Perricone are the same as those instantly claimed. Therefore there is a reasonable expectation that these compounds meet the required Iodine Value range as set forth in claim 10 of the instant application. It is noted that In re Best (195 USPQ 430) and In re Fitzgerald (205 USPQ 594) discuss the support of rejections wherein the prior art discloses subject matter which there is reason to believe inherently includes functions that are newly cited or is identical to a product instantly claimed. In such a situation the burden is shifted to the applicants to "prove that subject matter shown to be in the prior art does not possess characteristic relied on" (205 USPQ 594, second column, first full paragraph).

Regarding the claimed amount of urea and unsaturated material, Perricone (CLA) and Moller et al. (urea) teach overlapping amounts. In the case where the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art" a *prima facie* case of obviousness exists. **See MPEP 2144.05 [R-5].**

Regarding the claimed ratio of urea to unsaturated material, Perricone and Moller et al. teach overlapping amounts. "The normal desire of scientists or artisans to improve upon what is already generally known provides the motivation to determine

where in a disclosed set of percentage ranges is the optimum combination of percentages.” *In re Hoeschele*, 406 F.2d 1403, 160 USPQ 809 (CCPA 1969).

Response to Arguments

Applicants argue that (1) a combination of Perricone in view of Moller et al. would not render the instant invention obvious. Perricone mentions CLA but not the property of this material to degrade and cause color body formation in the compositions. Moeller et al. utilizes hydroxyalkyl ureas as moisturization agents but nothing is said or suggested that ureas have any functionality against inhibiting color bodies. Therefore, neither of the references teaches the fundamental problem which applicant sought to address.

Applicants’ arguments filed April 7 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding Applicants’ first argument, just like above, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In the instant case, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add a hydroxyalkyl urea as Perricone teach compositions for the treatment of skin disorders such as eczema (which is a dry skin disorder) and that adjuvants can

be utilized and Moller et al. teach that the hydroxyalkyl ureas can be in compositions as skin moisturizers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize skin moisturizers in composition designed to treat dry skin diseases such as eczema. The examiner further more respectfully notes that even though Applicants have recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art, namely the stabilization of conjugated linoleic acids by the hydroxyethyl urea, this advantage cannot in and of itself be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). Furthermore, the examiner respectfully notes that *prima facie* obviousness does not require prior art references to recognize or even suggest the problem that Applicants attempted to solve. In addition, the prior art does not have to teach combining the references for the reason that Applicants combined them. *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688,692-93, 16 USPQ2d 1897, 1901 (Fed. Cir. 1990, en banc).

The rejections of record are maintained as applicants have not argued why the combination is not obvious, only that the combination does not discuss solving the same problem that applicants attempted to solve. The instant application claims a product comprising CLA and a substituted urea. This product is obvious. Applicants have not presented data or arguments to show that this product is not obvious.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ABIGAIL FISHER whose telephone number is (571)270-3502. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9am-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Abigail Fisher
Examiner
Art Unit 1616

AF

/Johann R. Richter/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1616